

INDIAN 5
Indian Council at Vergennes, Vermont in 1798.

Indian Council in Vermont. Original Minutes of the Council, commencing Oct. 13th, 1798, and continued to Oct. 18th, 1798. 5 pages, folio, endorsed: "The above minutes taken at the request of his Excellency."

R. Tyler.

"Vergennes, Oct. 23, 1798."

The Council opened with an Introduction to the Governor of Five Indian Chiefs of the Cognauaghah Tribe and of the Seven Nations of Lower Canada, by the High Sheriff of Addison County. The Indians then took their seats.

Unowee Goodstream, Chief of the Cognahwaghahs, through John Stacy, Interpreter, delivered a Talk to Great Friend- Great Friends- Great Friend and Great Friends- Big Father: "Since we have come so far to speak to the great Council of Vermont in their big Wigwag in the City of Vergennes we hope we shall be heard with attention."

The Chiefs then presented a Letter of Introduction from Mildad Woolsey, Esq., formerly Indian Agent for the State of New York and the credentials signed by twenty Chiefs of the Seven Nations. The letter and names of the Chiefs are copied in full on the Minutes. The letter describes the boundaries of the land claimed by the Indians.

At the last meeting the Governor informed the Chiefs that he would lay their matters before his brethren the Legislature & doubted not that satisfactory notice would be taken of them.

Governor Tichenor's Address to the Indians.

Tichenor, (Isaac). Address to the Indians. 1 page, folio, entirely in the handwriting of and signed by Isaac Tichenor. "City of Vergennes, Nov. 6, 1798."

Tichenor (Isaac). A. L. S., 2 pages, folio, "City of Vergennes, 1st June, 1799." Addressed to John Stacy, Interpreter & Agent, Cagnawaga.

** The letter is entirely in Tichenor's handwriting and signed by him. Endorsed "Cop." which he kept for his record.

Tichenor (Isaac). A. L. S., 1 page, folio, "Burlington, Aug. 4, 1799." Addressed to John Stacy, Interpreter & Agent, Cagnawaga. Also endorsed "Cop." Written and signed by Gov. Tichenor.

The Indians' Reply. Letter from Eight of the Indian Chiefs of the Seven Nations, written by thier Interpreter, John Stacey, addressed to Silas Hathaway at St. Albans. 1 page, folio, "Cachnawaga, 23 Sept. 1799."

** The letter was turned over to Gov. Tichenor and is docketed by him.

"You remember last fall we was at Vergennes on the regard of our hunting land, you was prisont we believe at Major Grottees hous when govinor Tichenor told us about our lands and that he wold choused Mr. John Sharp to be agent to communicate from you to us about our lands and that he wold be hear at the Vaillage in three wicks or a month at the fourdes to hear what we had to say forder about our lands and tack back the answer, we wear very glad to his Excellency for the offer and weated with prashents to see him come but have had no account of him wich gives os trouble least sune thing is happing him," etc., etc.

"Signed by Eight head Chiefs."

In all, ten pages, relating to the Indian claims of land embracing nearly the whole of the Counties of Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle.

State of Vermont.

In Council - City of Vergennes 13th of October
anno Domini 1790.

Minutes of the Talk delivered by certain Indian
Chiefs of the Cognahagah Tribe ^{& of the Iroquois Nations of Lower Canada} to his Excellency the
Governor and the Honorable Council.

The following Chiefs being introduced by the
High Sheriff of Addison County took their Seats

(^{1st}) Unowee Goodstream
Ahaahnapah
Sonooooowoosee
Taahsah
Toonowaktapee.

John Hay, Interpreter.

Unowee Goodstream delivered the following Talk.
Great Friends, We have the luck to come so far from the
great Council Fire of our own Nation to tell you of the
joy we have to talk with the Honorable Governor, the
great Father of Vermont. —

Great Friends, We wish the great Chiefs of the Council
all Happiness. —

Great Friend, and Friends, Since we have come so far
to speak to the great Council of Vermont in their
big Wigwam in the City of Vergennes we hope we shall
be heard with attention. —

Big Fathers, I who now speak to you am Chief of
the Cognahagah Indians - I hope you will hear
me on behalf of my whole nation - May the great
Spirit

Spirit brighten the Chain of Friendship between our Tribes —
May the path way between us be kept so plain as that a little
Child may find it when the sun is asleep in his blanket
under the Western waters. —

The Chiefs then presented a letter of Introduction
from Meldad Woolsey Esq formerly Indian Agent for the
State of New York and the Credentials of which the following
is a Copy — Signed by Twenty chiefs of the seven Nations.
— Copy. —

His Excellency Isaac Tichenor Esq Governor
of the State of Vermont — Vergennes. —

Great Brother,

~~We~~ The chiefs and Councillors of the seven
Nations of Canada Indians send our Love and respects to
you and your Family by five of our Agents which we the
Chiefs have sent to you to treat about our Hunting Lands,
that lies in your State — Beginning on the East side of
Tyconderoga, from thence to the great Falls on Otter Creek
and continues the same course to the Height of land (that
divides the streams between Lake Champlain and the River
Connecticut, from thence along the Height of land opposite
Mishigone, and then down to the Bay. that is the land
belonging to the seven nations which we have sent to settle
for with you as we have settled with York State — so we hope
you will be pleased to receive our Agents, and that it will
be settled so that both sides will be Contented. —

Cognahwaghal 29th Sept. 1791

Signed by Twenty Chiefs of the different
Nations. —

Turn over —

Ansⁿ - They have no complaint to make - The Mayor
has placed them where he thought proper - and
if the Gov^r was to visit them, they should place
him where they thought proper, & suppose he would
be contented - The Indians made it a rule never
to express discontent, when they were Guests.

The Gov^r informed the Chiefs, that he would
furnish them with the papers they wished, and
would lay their matters before his brethren
the Legislature, & doubtless not, but that
satisfactory notice would be taken of them -
- The reason why he had not informed the
Legislature before of their matters, was because
he had not obtained from them the evidence
of their Claims.

The above Minutes taken at the request
of his Excellency -

M. Tyler

Vergennes Oct. 23. 1790

Gongage	-	Anasategen	Schanagritsen
		Tascha	Shanagatie
		Garoniatsoaga	Thintaraganra
		Sotozen	Galintaterhow
		Anatanonne	Shagosenegetee
		Tuzenitshen	Shagenoganne

Ganelatagee	-	varontaksa	Aggasne
Tharki		Aggeron	Sionatogenhe
Enita		Ottiggaiho	Scharoningethen

His Excellency after hearing the Talk and hearing and receiving the Letter recommendatory and the Credentials, informed the chiefs, that he should with the Council take their Communications into consideration. The Chiefs then retired.

Oct. 16. 1790

The Chiefs came before the Gov^r to answer some questions which had been previously submitted to them relative to evidence of their Claims to the Land in question - being dissatisfied with their interpreter, they requested to meet the Gov^r on the 10th inst.

Oct. 20. 1790

The Chief addressed the Gov^r as follows
 Brother, the great spirit has directed this day to be a day of joy, as we meet the great Gov^r of Vermont & his whole family; and we sincerely hope this meeting will be happy to us all. Our interpreter, W. Fayer, will deliver in writing what we have to say respecting our Land - upon which W. Fayer delivered the Paper N^o 1 - (read it)

The Governor inquired of the Chiefs, whether their Ancestors, the Cagnowags, were not ancients of the Confederacy of the Five Nations of Indians.
 Answer.

Answer, That was an old affair, they however believed it was so.

Question, Did they not separate from the confederacy in the Wars between the Kings of England & France, & did they not remove into Canada & join the King of France in all his Wars ag^t. the King of England?

Answer - They acknowledge it was so, but were ignorant of its consequences, & were inticed from their Lands by the French.

Q. The Gov^t. asked them if they had any evidence of a Settlement with the State of New York, as stated in W. Walsey's letter.

Ans. The Chief replied they had papers which would shew ~~a~~ settlement with New York but supposed it unnecessary to bring them, to a different State, & had left them at Rome. - They found it difficult to ^{negotiate} settle with white People, as it was so hard to make themselves understood - they had found the same difficulties before - they had travelled so far as Philadelphia & was then sent back for papers. - He the Chief was present at the settlement with the State of New York - The Land claimed from New York was from Charlton Island in Catarague to Lake George - from thence along the West side of Lake Champlain to Canada Line.

The Gov^t. inquired if the Mayor of the City had furnished them ^{with} suitable accommodations

City of Vergennes

Nov^r 6th 1790 — Great Friends & Chiefs.

On the 23^d of last month I laid all
your matters before the great Council of this State.
— They have considered of your Claim, with attention
until this time.

Your claim, was unexpected, and if it be
well founded, will affect their young Men
and Children, who never thought of your Notions
having any Interest here. Their Fathers
purchased these Lands a great many Years
ago, and supposed the King of Great Britain
who made the Grant, had settled all Claims
& disputes relating to it.

Brothers — The Fathers and Chiefs of this
State are desirous to do you justice — but as
they are altogether ignorant of the grounds
of your Claim, which has slept so long — they
have directed me to inquire into the truth
and justice of it, and at some time hereafter
to inform you, at your place of residence,
of the results of such inquiry.

I am also directed to offer you a
present of the value of \$100 — as a Token of the
Friendship, which the great Council have
for your Nation, and as a pledge of their
Disposition to do you justice.

I hope the great Spirit will preserve you
and favor your return to your families & friends
Haan hihonor

Address to the
Indians. 6th Nov 1790

N^o 1

Li,

City of Vergennes
1 June 1999

Maj. Goodnik has forwarded a letter to me bearing date 27th of March last, which was written to him by the seven Chiefs, respecting their Land — they ~~were~~ inform, that I had chosen Mr. Thorpe to communicate with them, through Mr. Goodnik — that I promised Mr. Thorpe should be with them in three weeks or a month.

You will be so good as to advise the Chiefs to look over the papers I have given them, and to remember the conversation that passed on this subject. Your their Interpreter, and also one of the Young Warriors, who can write & understand our Language, must remember, that I gave them no such encouragement — I expressly mentioned, the whole business respecting their claim was committed to me by the Legislature to examine & adjust — as I had heard the reasons given by the Chiefs in support of their claim, & which was unexpected by us — it would be necessary on our part to look for such documents, ^{would} give light in the business — that it would take me a long time to do this, perhaps until the next Session of the Legislature, but not to give them trouble, I would send Mr. Sharp to them, the inst. I had completed the examination on my part & acquaint them with the result.

You will advise the Chiefs to place

confidence in this — to correct their mistakes
— and assure them, that I have not forgotten
their matters, and that I have them constantly
before me — & that I know of no agents on my part
except W. Thos.

With great friendship and

Respect I am

Your O^b-Serv^t

Haad Wihem

To John Story

Interpreter & Agent

Cochranawaga

5. June 1799
John Story - Agent
& Interpreter
Cochranawaga

N^o 3.

Exp -

Burlington Aug-4. 1799

Liv,
1

My Letter to you, in June last respecting
the claim of the seven Chiefs in behalf of their
Nation, I hope you have received - I was sorry
to find them mistaken as to the ^{time} it would
take me, to investigate the whole business
- I wish to do the chiefs justice and at
the same time, to preserve the rights of
our people. - From the evidence I have
obtained respecting the claim made by
the Chiefs, I find it will be necessary for
me to consult the Legislature at their
next Session - you will make this known
to the Chiefs - assure them of my friendship
and that I will immediately upon the
rising of our Legislature, send Mr. Thorp to
them with the result of our deliberations
- tell them to place confidence in this
& that there will be no omission of their
attending the assembly.

I am their friend and
for -

HAAR JOHNSON

John Story Interpreter
& Agent - Cognewagen.

4th Aug. 1799
Letter to John Stacy
Agent & Interpreter
Cognawage

N^o 4

Cop-

Si

Cachnawaga 23 Sept: 1799

the Chiefes of the Seven Nations, takes this opportunity
by five of our agents to let you know we are in
good health at Orisont thankens be to the Supreme
for the same, hoping that thirs fine lines will find
you and all our Brothers & friends the same

Si you Remember Last fall we was at Vergennes on
the regard of our hunting Land, you was Orisont
we belive at Major Grothues house when governor
Tichenor told us that he had choosed M^r John
Sharps to be agent to communicate from you to us
about our Lands and that he would be hear at the Village
in three weeks or a month at the fourdes to hear what
we had to say border about our Lands and take back
the answer, we wear very glad to his Excellency for
the offer and waited with Cashents to see him come
but have had no account of him which gives us trouble
least some thing is happping him, we will take it a
great Pleasur if youd write to us by the Berers about
the affairs of our Lands, and it will save us the trouble of
going down next month to the assembly of Vermont
we have nothing in Orisont to write to you but send
our hearty Love to all our Brothers and friends, take much
to your self and familey so we Remand yours &c. &c.
Signed by Eight head Chiefes

W^m Siles Hathaway

ana Sa te gen -
garoniatti go sa
te gen ta Shen -
a tin non tot -
Sho to gen -
thare ba -
lgana sa -
Sho na Bio gane

A. B. Pleas to detach the answer
to John Stacey agent Cachnawaga

Siles Hathaway Esq

State Vermont St Albans

14th 1899
Letter from
Hathaway -